

Books by the Stack



Men Explain Things To Me by Rebecca Solnit

In her comic, scathing essay *Men Explain Things to Me*, Rebecca Solnit took on what often goes wrong in conversations between men and women. This book features that essay with six perfect complements, including an examination of the great feminist writer Virginia Woolf's embrace of mystery, of not knowing, of doubt and ambiguity, an inquiry into marriage equality, and a terrifying survey of the scope of contemporary violence against women.

Why you'll like it: *Essays, society and culture, feminism, though-provoking.*

About the Author: Rebecca Solnit writes extensively on photography and landscape. She is a contributing editor to *Art Issues* and *Creative Camera* and is the author of three books. She has contributed essays to several museum catalogues including *Crimes and Splendors: The Desert Cantos of Richard Misrach* and the Whitney Museum's *Beat Culture* and the *New America*. She was a 1993 recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship.

Questions for discussion

1. Which of the seven essays did you like the most? Why?
2. Did you find this book entertaining? Why or why not?
3. Did any of the characters remind you of yourself or someone you know? How?
4. Do all of the essays feel as though they are of equal "weight?" If not, what makes one essay feel more significant than another?
5. What did you think of the structure and style of Solnit's writing?
6. Why was the man at the party that Rebecca attended surprised that she had written "River of Shadows?" What larger problem did this incident point to?
7. What was the impact of the essay, "Men Explain Things to Me" had? What did the website, "Academic Men Explain Things to Me" provide to visitors to the site?
8. What did U.S. Congressman Todd Aiken mean by the term "legitimate rape," and what was he referring to when he said that women can "shut that thing down?"
9. How does control and power factor into the sexual abuse of women? What were the reasons that domestic violence and marital rape were largely ignored for centuries?

10. Who was Dominique Strauss-Kahn and what was he accused of? What was the result of the incident? How did Solnit compare Strauss-Kahn to the organization he headed?

(Questions provided in part by Bookrags.com)



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